

### Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following new paragraph on page 1 before line 5.

This application is a division of Application No. 09/900,949 filed July 10, 2001.

The paragraph starting at page 1, line 8 has been amended as follows.

The present invention relates to a recording ~~apparatus~~ apparatuses, having multiple transporting means for transporting sheets downstream from the recording means, such as facsimile apparatuses, photocopiers, printers, ~~facsimile apparatuses~~, and so forth.

The paragraph starting at page 3, line 10 has been amended as follows.

To this end, a recording apparatus for recording on recording sheets by recording means comprises: a transporting roller for transporting recording sheets disposed further upstream in of the recording means relative to the transporting direction than the recording means; plurality of direction; a proximal discharging ~~rollers~~ roller for transporting recording sheets further and being disposed downstream in of the recording means relative to the transporting direction than the recording means; direction; and a ~~farthest-downstream~~ distal discharging roller disposed ~~farthest~~ downstream in of the proximal discharging roller relative to the transporting direction, of the plurality of

~~discharging rollers, which is~~ and being of higher precision than ~~upstream-side the proximal~~  
~~discharging rollers disposed further upstream roller.~~

The paragraph starting at page 7, line 7 has been amended as follows.

Also, a carriage unit 8 serving as a recording means is provided in the recording area, so as to perform predetermined recording on transported sheets P. With the present embodiment, serial ink-jet recording has been employed, wherein a carriage 8a is attached so as to reciprocally move along a guide shaft 8b, and a recording head and ink tank 8c are mounted on the carriage 8a. Ink is discharged from the recording head synchronously with the movement of ~~it~~ the carriage 8a, thereby recording an ink image on the sheet P which has been transported into the recording area. Note that a recovery unit 9 is also provided at the end portion of the range of movement of the carriage 8a, so as to face the recording head, for suctioning ink from the recording head before starting recording to eliminate defects in ink discharging while recording.

The paragraph starting at page 7, line 22 has been amended as follows.

~~Then, the sheets following~~ Following recording, the sheets are discharged with the discharging unit 7, and as shown in Fig. 2, are sequentially discharged and ~~stacked~~ stacked in a discharging tray 10 detachably mounted to the bottom case 2 below the discharging unit 7.

The paragraph starting at page 8, line 9 has been amended as follows.

As shown in Figs. 4 and 5, the transporting unit 6 has a main transporting roller 13 for transporting sheets P, and a platen 12 for setting the distance between the sheets P and the recording head 11. Driving force from a motor 14 is transmitted to the main transporting roller 13. Also, pinch rollers 18 which move synchronously with the main transporting roller 13 due to the friction driving force of the main transporting roller 13 and the sheets P are in contact with the main transporting roller 13. The pinch rollers 18 are pressed toward the main transporting roller 13 by a spring member (not shown in the drawings), thereby generating the force for transporting the sheets P. Also, the pinch rollers 18 are set so that a pressing force of 500 [gf] (4.9 [N]) is applied by each of the pinch rollers 18 to the main transporting roller 13.

The paragraph starting at page 13, line 6 has been amended as follows.

On the other hand, the sheet P is in contact with the second discharging roller 17 in a manner wrapping onto the second discharging roller 17 in the circumferential direction thereof, due to the weight of the sheet P. Accordingly, the transporting force of the second discharging roller 17 placed on the sheet P becomes very great. Consequently, of the effects of transporting precision of the first and second discharging rollers 16 and 17, the ~~effects~~ effect of transporting precision acting upon the sheet P from the second discharging roller 17 is far greater than that of the first discharging roller 16.

The paragraph starting at page 15, line 14 has been amended as follows.

Note that the values, material, etc., listed in the present embodiment are only examples, and the present invention ~~needs~~ need not be restricted to these values, material, etc.

The paragraph starting at page 15, line 18 has been amended as follows.

Also, the number of discharging rollers ~~needs~~ need not be restricted to two; rather, the same advantages can be obtained using multiple discharging rollers of three or more.

The paragraph starting at page 17, line 10 has been amended as follows.

Note that the values, material, etc., listed in the present embodiment are only examples, and the present invention ~~needs~~ need not be restricted to these values, material, etc.

The paragraph starting at page 19, line 19 has been amended as follows.

With the above-described embodiments, a thermoplastic elastomer with a hardness of 70—70° (by the measuring method for hardness set forth in JIS (Japan

Industrial Standard) A) and EPDM rubber material were used for the roller portions 16d and 17d of the first discharging roller 16 and the second discharging roller 17, but with the present embodiment, further improvement in transporting precision can be achieved by setting the friction coefficient  $\mu$  of the roller portions 17d of the second discharging roller 17 situated farthest downstream in the sheet transporting direction as to the sheet P so as to be greater than the friction coefficient  $\mu$  of the roller portions 16d of the first discharging roller 16 situated further upstream in the sheet transporting direction as to the sheet P.

The paragraph starting at page 20, line 7 has been amended as follows.

With the present embodiment, EPDM with a hardness of ~~50—~~ 50° was used for the roller portions 17d of the second discharging roller 17, and an elastomer with a hardness of ~~90—~~ 90° was used for the roller portions 16d of the first discharging roller 16. The friction coefficient  $\mu$  of the two as to the sheet P was 1.2 for the former and 0.8 for the latter, and in the event that the same pressing force is applied, the article with a hardness of ~~50—~~ 50° is capable of applying ~~higher~~ a greater transporting force to the sheet P. Accordingly, the degree of bearing on the precision of transporting sheets P with the second discharging roller 17 having higher roller precision becomes even higher, further improving transporting precision.

The paragraph starting at page 21, line 4 has been amended as follows.

Note that the values, material, etc., listed in the present embodiment are only examples, and the present invention ~~needs~~ need not be restricted to these values, material, etc.

The paragraph starting at page 23, line 12 has been amended as follows.

Also, although the above embodiments have been described with reference to the ink-jet recording method as a the recording method, ~~but~~ the present invention is by no means restricted to this; rather, the present invention is also applicable to other recording methods such as ~~the~~ thermal transfer recording ~~method~~ methods, thermal-sensitive recording ~~method~~ methods, impact recording methods such as wire-dot recording, or other electro-photography recording methods, etc.

The paragraph starting at page 24, line 10 has been amended as follows.

While the present invention has been described with reference to what are presently considered to be the preferred embodiments, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the disclosed embodiments. On the contrary, the invention is intended to cover various modifications and equivalent arrangements included within the spirit and scope of the appended claims. The scope of the following claims is to be accorded the broadest interpretation so as to encompass all such ~~modification~~ modifications and equivalent structures and functions.